

CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A method for preparing at least a first image for integration with at least a second image, comprising: receiving at least the first image; forming a first compressed image restricted to a first region of a first image area by representing at least one segment of the first image within the first region with a reference to another segment of the first image within the first region, thereby preparing the first image for integration with at least the second image.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising preparing at least the second image for integration with at least the first image by: receiving at least the second image; and forming a second compressed image.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the second compressed image is restricted to a second region of a second image area by representing at least one segment of the second image within the second region with a reference to another segment of the second image within the second region, thereby preparing the second image for integration with the first image.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the first image area and the second image area are the same, and the first region and the second region are different regions within the same image area.
5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the first image area and the second image area are different, and the first region and the second region are different regions within different image areas.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first image is logically or physically divided into segments.

7. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the second image is logically or physically divided into segments.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first image includes at least one frame.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the second image includes at least one frame.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first image area spans at least one frame, and the step of forming the first compressed image includes representing at least one segment of the first image within the first region of the frame with a reference to another segment of the first image within the first region of the frame.

11. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the second image area spans at least one frame, and the step of forming the second compressed image includes representing at least one segment of the second image within the second region of the frame with a reference to another segment of the second image within the second region of the frame.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first image area spans multiple frames, and the step of forming the first compressed image includes representing at least one segment of the first image within the first region of one frame with a reference to a segment of the first image within the first region of a different frame.

13. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the second image area spans multiple frames,

and step of forming the second compressed image includes representing at least one segment of the second image within the second region of one frame with a reference to a segment of the second image within the second region of a different frame.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first image includes a still image, and the second image includes a motion video image, a still image, or a combination of both.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the first image is a barker.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the second image is a menu or programming guide.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least the first image is prepared for integration with at least the second image for display to a content-on-demand subscriber.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first compressed image is combined with the second image to form an integrated image.

19. (Original) An apparatus for preparing at least a first image for integration with at least a second image: an input for receiving at least the first image; and an encoder for forming a first compressed image restricted to a first region of a first image area by representing at least one segment of the first image within the first region with a reference to another segment of the first image within the first region, thereby preparing the first image for integration with at least the second image.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising an input for receiving at least

the second image, wherein the encoder forms a second compressed image.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the second compressed image is restricted to a second region of a second image area by representing at least one segment of the second image within the second region with a reference to another segment of the second image within the second region, thereby preparing the second image for integration with the first image.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the first image area and the second image area are the same, and the first region and the second region are different regions within the same image area.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the first image area and the second image area are different, and the first region and the second region are different regions within different image areas.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the first image is logically or physically divided into segments.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the second image is logically or physically divided into segments.

26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the first image includes at least one frame.

27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the second image includes at least one frame.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the first image area spans at least one frame, and the encoder forms the first compressed image by representing at least one segment of the first image within the first region of the frame with a reference to another segment of the first image within the first region of the frame.

29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the second image area spans at least one frame, and the encoder forms the second compressed image by representing at least one segment of the second image within the second region of the frame with a reference to another segment of the second image within the second region of the frame.

30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the first image area spans multiple frames, and the encoder forms the first compressed image by representing at least one segment of the first image within the first region of one frame with a reference to a segment of the first image within the first region of a different frame.

31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the second image area spans multiple frames, and the encoder forms the second compressed image by representing at least one segment of the second image within the second region of one frame with a reference to a segment of the second image within the second region of a different frame.

32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the first image is a motion video image, and the second image is a still image, a motion video image, or a combination of both.

33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the first image is a barker.

34. (Original) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the second image is a menu or programming guide.

35. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein at least the first image is prepared for integration with at least the second image for display to a content-on-demand subscriber.

36. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the first compressed image is combined with the second image to form an integrated image.

37. (Original) A system for preparing at least a first image for integration with at least a second image, comprising: a receiver for receiving at least a first image; and at least a first encoder for forming a first compressed image restricted to a first region of a first image area by representing at least one segment of the first image within the first region with a reference to another segment of the first image within the first region, thereby preparing the first image for integration with the second image.

38. (Original) The system of claim 37, further comprising: a receiver for receiving at least a second image; and at least a second encoder for forming a second compressed image, thereby preparing the second image for integration with the first image.

39. (Original) The system of claim 38, wherein the second encoder forms the second compressed image restricted to a second region of a second image area by representing at least one segment of the second image within the second region with a reference to another segment of the second image within the second region.

40. (Original) The system of claim 39, wherein the first image area and the second image area are the same, and the first region and the second region are different regions within the

same image area.

41. (Original) The system of claim 39, wherein the first image area and the second image area are different, and the first region and the second region are different regions within different image areas.

42. (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the first image is logically or physically divided into segments.

43. (Original) The system of claim 39, wherein the second image is logically or physically divided into segments.

44. (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the first image includes at least one frame.

45. (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the second image includes at least one frame.

46. (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the first image area spans at least one frame, and the first encoder forms the first compressed image by representing at least one segment of the first image within the first region of the frame with a reference to another segment of the first image within the first region of the frame.

47. (Original) The system of claim 39, wherein the second image area spans at least one frame, and the second encoder forms the second compressed image by representing at least one segment of the second image within the second region of the frame with a reference to another segment of the second image within the second region of the frame.

48. (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the first image area spans multiple frames, and the first encoder forms the first compressed image by representing at least one segment of the first image within the first region of one frame with a reference to a segment of the first image within the first region of a different frame.

49. (Original) The system of claim 39, wherein the second image area spans multiple frames, and the second encoder forms the second compressed image by representing at least one segment of the second image within the second region of one frame with a reference to a segment of the second image within the second region of a different frame.

50. (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the first image is a motion video image, and the second image is a still image, a motion video image, or a combination of both.

51. (Original) The system of claim 50, wherein the first image is a Barker.

52. (Original) The system of claim 50, wherein the second image is a menu or programming guide.

53. (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the first image is prepared for integration with at least the second image for display to a content-on-demand subscriber.

54. (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the first compressed image is combined with the second image to form an integrated image.

55. (Original) A method for integrating at least a first image with at least a second image, comprising: forming a first compressed image restricted to a first region of a first image area

by representing at least one segment of the first image within the first region with a reference to another segment of the first image within the first region; and combining the first compressed image with the second image to form an integrated image.

56. (Original) The method of claim 55, further comprising forming a second compressed image, wherein the step of combining combines the second compressed image with the first compressed image.

57. (Original) The method of claim 56, wherein the second compressed image is formed, restricted to a second region of a second image area, by representing at least one segment of the second image within the second region with a reference to another segment of the second image within the second region.

58. (Original) The method of claim 57, wherein the step of combining comprises selecting first portions of the first compressed image within the first region, selecting second portions of the second compressed image within the second region, and combining the selected first portions and second portions.

59. (Original) An apparatus for integrating at least a first image and at least a second image: an encoder for forming a first compressed image restricted to a first region of a first image area by representing at least one segment of the first image within the first region with a reference to another segment of the first image within the first region; and a combiner for combining the first compressed image and the second image to form an integrated image.

60. (Original) The apparatus of claim 59, wherein the encoder forms a second compressed image, and the combiner combines the second compressed image with the first compressed image.

61. (Original) The apparatus of claim 60, wherein the second compressed image is formed, restricted to a second region of a second image area, by representing at least one segment of the second image within the second region with a reference to another segment of the second image within the second region.

62. (Original) The apparatus of claim 61, wherein the combiner selects first portions of the first compressed image within the first region, selects second portions of the second compressed image within the second region, and combines the selected first portions and second portions.

63. (Original) A system for integrating at least a first image and at least a second image, comprising: at least a first encoder for receiving the first image and forming a first compressed image restricted to a first region of a first image area by representing at least one segment of the first image within the first region with a reference to another segment of the first image within the first region; and a combiner for combining the first compressed image with the second image to form an integrated image.

64. (Original) The system of claim 63, further comprising: at least a second encoder for receiving the second image and forming a second compressed image, wherein the combiner combines the first compressed image and the second compressed image.

65. (Original) The system of claim 64, wherein the second encoder forms the second compressed image, restricted to a second region of a second image area, by representing at least one segment of the second image within the second region with a reference to another segment of the second image within the second region.

66. (Original) The system of claim 65, wherein the combiner selects first portions of the first compressed image within the first region, selects second portions of the second compressed image within the second region, and combines the selected first portions and second portions.